



Volume 3, Issue 11

Ouranophantor

November 2020

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Church Office: info@stbasilchicago.org

Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*

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Parish Council President:

Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy
Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 6:30 a.m.
Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Month of November

+ Collecting new or gently used coats for Pacific Garden Mission; drop off at church by November 30

November 8, 2020

+ Stewardship Sunday

November 15, 2020

+ Fall General Assembly
+ Angel Tree ornament pick up

November 16, 2020

+ Early Morning Liturgy—St. Matthew the Evangelist (if you plan to attend, please register in advance using Sign-Up Genius)

November 25, 2020

+ Early Morning Liturgy—St. Catherine the Great Martyr (if you plan to attend, please register in advance using Sign-Up Genius)

December 13, 2020

+ Drop off Angel Tree Gifts

December 14-18, 2020

+ Forty-Day Liturgy celebrated at St. Basil daily from December 14 through December 18 at 9:30 a.m. (if you plan to attend, please register in advance using Sign-Up Genius)

We welcome new families to our parish.

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese.

Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/>

Sacraments and Blessings

40-Day Blessings:



Baptisms:

October 25, 2020

Hunter Harrison

son of Carl and Natalie Michas

Godparent: Pam Sideris Cosmos

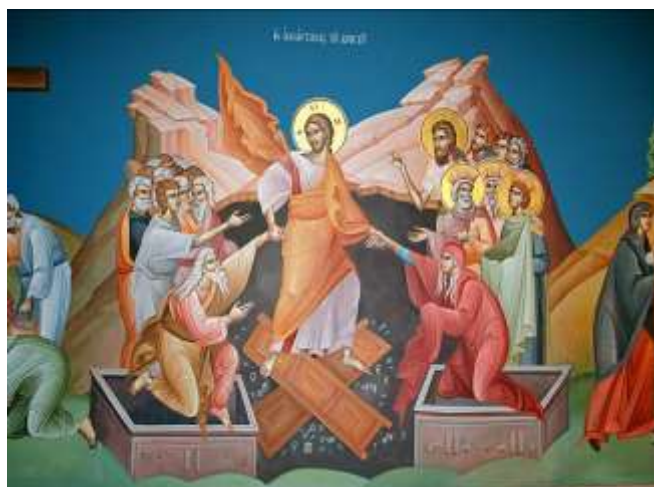
Chrismations:



Weddings:



Funerals:



Father Dimitri's Message



The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-streamer

The world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you emerged the victor in routing the barbarians. For as you brought to naught the boasts of Lyaïos, imparting courage to Nestor in the stadium, in like manner, holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke Christ God for us, that He may grant us His great mercy.

-Apolytikion of St. Demetrios and St. Nestor

One of the greatest and most loved saints of the Orthodox Church is St. Demetrios the Myrobletes. This holy soldier of Paradise, patron of his city of Thessaloniki is the perfect saint during these troubling times. In this period of fear, uncertainty and division, St. Demetrios brings us the model and the prayer to bring us to courage, resoluteness, and unity.

St. Demetrios is often labeled as the Patron Saint of Courage, but this is not an accurate translation. He is not. St. Demetrios is not the patron saint of κουράγιο courage, but the patron saint of θάρρος and there is a difference. Κουράγιο and θάρρος are very similar, but let me explain. Courage is typified when a soldier is standing in a line with his fellow soldiers and sees an enemy force charging at him that means them harm. To continue to stand and not run away takes courage. "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground, and having done everything, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13). Courage is a holy trait to be sure, but θάρρος is a little different.



Θάρρος is typified when a fireman sees a building ablaze, and hearing the cry of someone inside, he runs into the building despite not knowing if he will come out again alive. Θάρρος can be translated as "guts." Whereas courage is a passive trait that sees the individual endure what is thrown at him, guts is an active trait in which the individual steps forward into danger or difficulties.

This divine trait is displayed in the story of St. Demetrios and St. Nestor.

Look, my brothers and sisters in Christ, to the difficulties the Christians of Thessaloniki faced in the late third century. To practice their religion meant death, and yet their young governor Demetrios taught Holy Scripture secretly in the bathhouse of the city. This fearlessness continued when St. Demetrios was brought before Emperor Maximianos and refused to renounce his Christ. Shocked by this audacious courage, the emperor imprisoned Demetrios in the bathhouse.

Then, such was Maximianos's bloodthirst that he erected a colosseum to have his champion Lyaïos slaughter Christians in an arena as a sick rendition of gladiatorial games. Unable to endure the screams and fears of the Christians filling the city, a young boy named Nestor went to Demetrios, his teacher in the prison, and asked for his prayers and blessing to enter the arena and fight Lyaïos, despite his lack of training, size, or strength. To take this step must have been terrifying to the child, as he would face certain death. Nevertheless, the saint not only did not try to dissuade the boy, but rather imparted to Nestor the blessings of Christ to show the emperor and all the people the unconquerable might of God through his faith.

When this young boy approached the seasoned gladiator, all laughed, thinking that this brave young child would quickly perish as they compared the two figures in the arena. The laughter ceased when the boy not only defeated Lyaïos but killed him. In the stunned silence, Nestor cried out, "Great is the God of Demetrios, Great is our Lord Jesus Christ!" This rallying cry thundered across the stadium as all present shouted.

In a rage, the emperor ordered Nestor beheaded and Demetrios to be killed with spears. Seeing his martyrdom approaching, St. Demetrios lifted his shirt and bared his side so that the spears might pierce him in the same spot that our Lord Jesus Christ was pierced on the Precious Cross.

St. Demetrios imparted Θάππος to Nestor. He gave him that great virtue to step into the arena and face Lyaïos. Now, how does this apply to us here today? While you are not called to step into an arena with a gladiator who wants to physically kill you, you are most certainly in a spiritual arena. How many of us have been faced with a task that we knew we must do, but cowered at the prospect because we knew it would be difficult or painful? Especially during this time of uncertainty and fear, we must be ready to step forward for the sake of others and do the right thing. We must take on the quality of Θάππος.

I will close with the most powerful example of Θάππος given to us in history, the model which inspired St. Demetrios, St. Nestor, and all saints who embody this quality. When our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He contemplated the fate in front of him.

He knew that if he took that step forward, He would be mocked. He would be scourged. He would be abandoned by almost all of His closest friends. He would be crucified and suffer one of the most painful deaths imaginable. This is a terrifying prospect. So terrifying that the Scriptures say that Jesus Christ was sweating droplets of blood, which is a condition of such extreme anxiety that the individual sweating blood is close to suffering a heart attack.

Is it any wonder that the Lord said in prayer, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39)? This was Jesus Christ's humanity on full display, and yet he had the guts to take that step and endure all this for our sake.

Oftentimes, my friends, doing the will of God, is not a passive exercise in which we do nothing but endure. Rather, to do the will of God requires us to actively participate and take that step forward. Let us follow the example of St. Demetrios and pray that he imparts the same Θάππος into us that St. Nestor received so that we too might fearlessly do the will of God. Amen

Your servant in Christ,



Fr. Dimitri Tobias, Proistamenos

Parish Council Update

By Jayme Schenk

Hello parishioners of St. Basil,

Hope everyone is enjoying the fall season, and that everyone is staying safe and healthy. If you haven't been able to attend church in person, remember we stream live on Facebook and You Tube.

Thank you to all that attended and supported our Oktoberfest Beer Tasting via Zoom, and a special thanks to Kalliope Osborne for organizing the event.

Beginning in November, we will be migrating to **Sign-Up Genius** in order to register for Divine Liturgy attendance. An email will be sent with details on how to register. Also, see page 11 for details.

Mark your calendars for our fall General Assembly that will take place on Sunday, November 15, at 1 p.m. via Zoom. Agenda and Zoom details will be sent shortly.

Parish council elections will be held in December via mail-in ballots, please let us know if anyone is interested in running.

Stay safe.

Jayme Schenk

Parish Council President

Philoptochos Update

By Nichole Kourvas Drimonas

Bring St. Basil Home This Christmas

At this time, when we are all missing our beloved St. Basil Church, we have an opportunity to bring the church into our homes this Christmas. Our parish's Philoptochos Society has arranged to have beautiful three-dimensional brass Christmas ornaments custom-made in the shape of the church. The ornaments are boxed, with a ribbon for hanging, and will sell for \$25. They are in production now and should be ready in early December. Ordering information will be available soon by email, on the church website, or by calling Philoptochos president Nichole Drimonas at 708-945-4792 (nkourvas@gmail.com).

Nichole Kourvas Drimonas,
President, St. Basil Philoptochos



The image above is an approximation of the finished product.



Stewardship Update



It's not too late to complete your 2020 stewardship. You can sign up at <http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/stewardship/> or contact the church office at 312-243-3738.

2020 Snapshot (As of October 22, 2020)

<u>Stewards</u>	<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Collected</u>
156	\$209,653	\$180,929

Join us for Stewardship Sunday on November 8th

We are still looking for new members to join the stewardship team who are interested in helping grow the engagement of parishioners and new members at St. Basil. Stewardship Ministry meetings will be announced in the weekly bulletin. Please join us, we'd love to have you! If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact the church office.

Saint Basil Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you. Have any questions, comments, ideas, or feedback? Let us know how we're doing so that we can better serve our church.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil? Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Stewardship" to learn more, or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

Yiayia's Kouzina Update

By Cynthia Schroeder

Yiayia's Kouzina has 13 containers of sesame koulouria available. The cost is \$12.00 for each container (18 sesame koulouria).

If you are interested in purchasing some, please contact Vicky in the church office at 312-243-3738.

Unfortunately, Yiayia's Kouzina will not be baking in November or December due to Covid-19.

Stay safe and healthy. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and hope to see everyone soon!

Cindy



St. Basil Welcoming Ministry

By Melita Green

The Welcoming Ministry has not been active at St. Basil during the time of Covid-19 but I have continued to participate in the Metropolis Strategic Planning Initiative, Welcoming Task Force through Zoom meetings. There have been about eight to ten individuals from many states in the Metropolis contributing their experiences and ideas to accomplish the goal set forth in the initiative:

- + Research and develop a best practices program that will help parishes establish effective Welcoming Ministries to ensure that all newcomers are fully embraced and welcomed.

We were tasked with visiting churches to observe welcoming best practices and to read books about them. The task force members visited a variety of churches known for growth in their communities; some were Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant.

We used the following checklist to evaluate our experience when visiting a church:

Welcoming Checklist

- (a) the parish website must be welcoming and have details of service times, church address, etc. right on the home page;
- (b) church signage must be clear and have up close parking spaces reserved for newcomers (and if parking is difficult have people to welcome them in the parking lot and direct them where to go);
- (c) everything must be clean and neat and organized (especially kids areas and bathrooms)
- (d) have someone to really and warmly welcome people and learn a little about them as soon as they enter;
- (e) explain what will happen and when (even for Orthodox since even the same things happen differently);
- (f) make sure someone is available to sit with them and explain what is going on if they are new to the Orthodoxy;
- (g) make sure that the clergy mentions their names and encourages parishioners to greet them in the coffee hour;
- (h) have someone with them in the coffee hour to introduce them to people like them;
- (i) try and connect them with someone like them (since you got info about them from the guest registration);
- (j) follow up with a thank you note and little gift (prayer card, etc.) within a few days of their visit and invite them to come back for coffee, dialogue etc.;
- (k) stay in touch with them and try and engage them to join some activities in the church and with some people like them;

We gathered data about each of these areas and shared them on a spreadsheet. Now we are examining the data and determining best practices in welcoming to recommend in a report to the Metropolis. After adoption by the Metropolis, parishes will have the choice to work with the task force members to implement the best practices in their parishes.

This has been an exciting and educational project for me. I thank Fr. Dimitri for blessing me to participate, and I look forward to working with St. Basil to improve our welcoming practices.

Angel Tree Update

By Pat Cole

Angel Tree Gift Selection to Begin November 15

With the Covid-19 pandemic, many things are changing. One thing that won't change is the generosity of St. Basil Church parishioners in ensuring that children will remain connected with incarcerated parents through the Angel Tree program. Now in its ninth year of participating in the Angel Tree program, the church's Prison Ministry is preparing for this year's effort. That means calling caregivers of the children to find out what the children want and to verify basic contact information.



Traditional Angel Tree (*purchase gifts and return wrapped gifts to church by December 13*)

Similar to prior years, a tabletop angel tree adorned with ornament tags with the names of 35 children will be available for parishioner selection starting November 15. The ornaments will have their ages, gender, and gift suggestions. This year, tables will be set up outside the Philoptochos Hall. Please stop by to pick up an angel tree ornament tag.

As in the past, we will also try to give each family a food gift card. If you would like to make a donation for a food gift card, please contact the church office.

Virtual Angel Tree

St Basil parishioners can also serve another 25 children through the Virtual Angel Tree, an online app provided by Prison Fellowship, the national organization that sponsors the Angel Tree program. Through this app, each child will be sent a \$40 Walmart gift card, a Christmas card containing a message from the incarcerated parent, and an opportunity to request a free Bible. When you visit the Virtual Angel Tree site on the web, you will enter St. Basil Church's access code* and then see virtual tags with the names of children assigned to our church. You will be able to browse through the tags, select the children you want to sponsor, and click checkout. Your cost for each gift will be \$42, covering the gift card, postage, and handling.

**Please note St. Basil Church access code will be sent out separately via email.*

Gift delivery and distribution

Gifts bought directly by parishioners can be returned to the church when attending any of the Saturday or Sunday Liturgies before December 13, or by making arrangements to deliver them to the church office during the week.

Additional help will be needed for the following:

- + Sorting gifts on Dec 13 and Dec 18
- + Meeting Angel Tree families that are picking up gifts at the church on Dec 19, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (3-4 people)
- + Delivering gifts on December 19, 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. (3-4 pairs of people)

To volunteer or make a donation, please contact Pat Cole at 773-252-8254 (patriciastahl@comcast.net) or Steve Cole at 312-493-4063 (stephancole@comcast.net).

Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

The first St. Basil Sunday school 2020-2021 session began with an Agiasomo on October 4. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about the Agiasomo and the Holy Gospel. It was wonderful to see our Sunday School students and teachers.

Following Divine Liturgy The K-4th grade students and teachers finally presented their beautiful St. John Chrysostom oratorical art piece. The students painted a replication of The Fish. The Fish is a symbol of the Christian faith and represents Jesus Christ, Son of God, Our Savior.



Sunday School is offering both in person and online sessions. Please remember that in order to receive instructions students need to be registered for the St. Basil Sunday School program.

- + Sunday School students, grades K-4 can access their Sunday School lessons in the Bit-moji virtual classroom on the St. Basil website.
- + Students in grades 5-7 may also access lessons in the Bit-moji through Zoom meets. The older grades meet virtually via Zoom, and class has been a great success.

A special thanks to our teachers for their hard work and dedication. The Bit-moji classrooms, Zoom meets and lessons are outstanding. Great job to The St. Basil Sunday School team!

Some updates regarding what our Sunday School students are learning.

- + Students K-4 finished up the Iconostasis and began learning the Ten Commandments.
- + Grades 5-7 have been learning the parts of the Greek Orthodox church and began lessons on worship.

Reminders regarding in-person attendance:

Whenever your family plans to attend Divine Liturgy in person, you will need to alert Vicky Crosby in the church office by Wednesday (Thursday at the latest). This is in accordance with the St. Basil Covid-19 parish protocols.

As of November, St. Basil will be switching to Sign-Up Genius for registering for Liturgy. Please be on the lookout for email updates from the parish regarding this change.

If you have any questions regarding Sunday School, please contact Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net.

Sign-Up Genius

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church is using
SIGN-UP GENIUS



Please Click the Link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a44abad28a6f85-divine>

To Sign Up to attend Divine Services

Reserve Your Spot Today!

If a family member is unable to use Sign-Up Genius, please call the church office and Vicky will help sign that individual up.



IN PREPARATION FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF THE
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, THE PARISHES OF THE
CITY OF CHICAGO WILL CELEBRATE

FORTY LITURGIES

FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR LOVED ONES AND FOR
THE REPOSE OF THOSE WHO HAVE
FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

THE DIVINE LITURGY WILL BE CELEBRATED EVERY DAY 9:30 AM—10:30 AM ACCORDING
TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS, AS WELL AS THE FEASTS OF SAINTS AND
CHRISTMAS EVE, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR PARISH CALENDAR

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

NOVEMBER 16-20, 2020

ASSUMPTION

NOVEMBER 23-27, 2020

ST. ANDREW

DECEMBER 1-4, 2020

ST. GEORGE

DECEMBER 7-12, 2020

ST. BASIL

DECEMBER 14-18, 2020

ST. DEMETRIOS

DECEMBER 21-23, 2020

FORTY-DAY LITURGY—ΣΑΡΑΝΤΑΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΟ —2020

FOR HEALTH —ΥΠΕΡ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ

IN MEMORY —ΥΠΕΡ ΑΝΑΠΑΥΣΕΩΣ

Please complete form and either email or drop off at church office prior to the Liturgy.

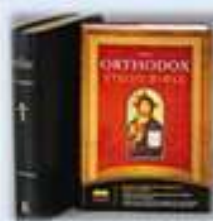
FORTY DAY LITURGY—SARANATALEITOURGO—SCHEDULE 2020

Sunday, November 15, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Monday, November 16, 2020	Annunciation Cathedral , 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, November 17, 2020	Annunciation Cathedral , 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, November 18, 2020	Annunciation Cathedral , 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 19, 2020	Annunciation Cathedral , 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Friday, November 20, 2020	Annunciation Cathedral , 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Saturday, November 21, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Sunday, November 22, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Monday, November 23, 2020	Assumption, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, November 24, 2020	Assumption, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, November 25, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Thursday, November 26, 2020	Assumption, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Friday, November 27, 2020	Assumption, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Saturday, November 28, 2020	Check your Parish Schedule
Sunday, November 29, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Monday, November 30, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Tuesday, December 1, 2020	St. Andrew, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 2, 2020	St. Andrew, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 3, 2020	St. Andrew, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 4, 2020	St. Andrew, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Saturday, December 5, 2020	Check your Parish Schedule
Sunday, December 6, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Monday, December 7, 2020	St. George, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 8, 2020	St. George, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 9, 2020	St. George, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 10, 2020	St. George, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 11, 2020	St. George, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, December 12, 2020	Check your Parish Schedule
Sunday, December 13, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Monday, December 14, 2020	St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 15, 2020	St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 16, 2020	St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 17, 2020	St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Friday, December 18, 2020	St. Basil, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Saturday, December 19, 2020	Check your Parish Schedule
Sunday, December 20, 2020	ALL CHURCHES (check your parish schedule)
Monday, December 21, 2020	St. Demetrios, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 22, 2020	St. Demetrios, 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 23, 2020	St. Demetrios, 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY



St. Basil
Greek Orthodox Church
of Chicago, Illinois



When: Tuesday Mornings –
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Where: ONLINE VIA



Participate in a Zoom Meeting



Watch on Facebook Live and ask questions in the comments

Watch on YouTube Livestream and ask questions in the comments

Bible Study Covid-19 Fall: Acts of the Apostles



PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION

Transforming lives since 1877

Ladies Philoptochos thanks the many parishioners and supporters who donated clothes, disposable razors and shaving cream for the Pacific Garden Mission. These items are welcome and much needed for the more than 600 men and women for whom the mission provides a place to sleep every night and who would otherwise be spending the night in the streets. The photo is of the mission's logistics manager with a box truck filled above the rim with your donations. We pass along his hearty thanks. Ladies Philoptochos is grateful for your continued support of our projects that help the most vulnerable in our society. Whatever the size of your donation, we hope you know that your love gives hope to the desperate men and women who seek help at the mission.



St. Basil is now collecting coats for The Pacific Garden Mission through the end of November.

- + **Both men's and women's coats are needed (new or gently used)**
- + **Large sizes (preferably)**
- + **Please drop off coats in the church office**



Do you work in the city of Chicago?
Would you like to attend weekday Liturgies but cannot because of work? Join us at St. Basil.

November

16: St. Matthew the Evangelist

25: St. Catherine the Great Martyr

Patronal Feasts for the Chicago parishes will not be celebrated at St. Basil.
Please check the [St. Basil website calendar](#) for updates to above schedule.
Liturgies are livestreamed on the [St. Basil Facebook Page](#)

Please sign up in advance using Sign-Up Genius or contact church office.



Buying more online these days?



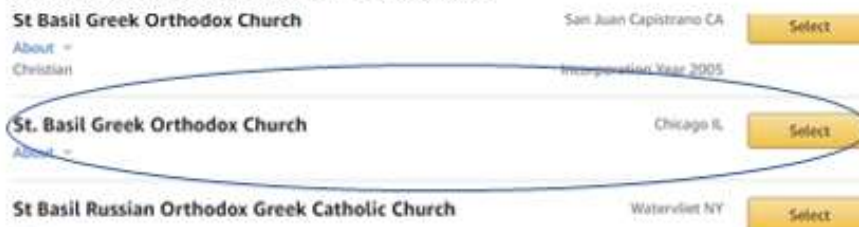
St. Basil can benefit from **amazon smile**

Imagine if all your purchases on Amazon.com resulted in Amazon making a contribution to St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church.

The Amazon Smile program does just that, giving 0.5% of the purchase price of each expenditure to our church.

Here's how you can make that happen:

1. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?q=St.+Basil+Greek+Orthodox+Church>
2. Sign into Amazon Smile with your same username and password, as you would to Amazon.
3. Select St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago IL



4. Whenever purchasing from Amazon, make sure you buy your items from [Smile.Amazon.Com](https://smile.amazon.com) (you will not need to select your charity again when you sign in).

Encourage your friends and family to make St. Basil Church their charity of choice.

For more information call Vicky Crosby at the St. Basil office, 312-243-3738 or Steve Cole, 312-493-4063.



November 1 - SS. Cosmas & Damianos the Unmercenaries

These Saints were from Asia (that is, Asia Minor). After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue, and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike; because of this, they are called "Unmercenaries." And thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Sainted Unmercenaries and Wonder Workers, regard our infirmities; freely you have received, freely share with us.



November 8 - Synaxis of the Angels

All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable (Deut. 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard them that hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him in our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Esaia 6:2-3; Matt. 18:10; Luke 15:7). In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Catholic Church, wisely honouring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon

Him -(Dan. 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

O Commanders of the Heavenly Host, we the unworthy beseech you, that through your entreaties you will fortify us, guarding us in the shelter of the wings of your ethereal glory, even as we fervently bow before you crying: "Deliver us from all danger, as Commanders of the Powers on high!"



November 9 - St. Nektarios

Saint Nektarios was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 1, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople with much hard labour, he became a monk on Chios in 1876, receiving the monastic name of Lazarus; because of his virtue, a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nektarios. Under the patronage of Patriarch Sophronius of Alexandria, Nektarios went to Athens to study in 1882; completing his theological studies in 1885, he went to Alexandria, where Patriarch Sophronius ordained him priest on March 23, 1886 in the Cathedral of Saint Sabbas, and in August of the same year, in the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, made him Archimandrite. Archimandrite Nektarios showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, and years later, when Nektarios was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.

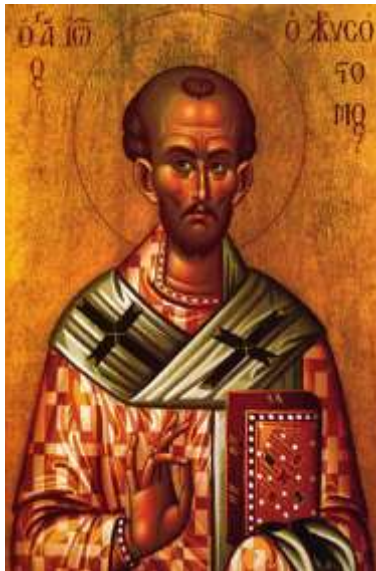
On January 15, 1889, in the same Church of Saint Nicholas, Nektarios was consecrated Metropolitan of the Pentapolis in eastern Libya, which was under the jurisdiction of Alexandria. Although Nektarios' swift ascent through the degrees of ecclesiastical office did not affect his modesty and childlike innocence, it aroused the envy of lesser men, who convinced the elderly Sophronius that Nektarios had it in his heart to become Patriarch. Since the people loved Nektarios, the Patriarch was troubled by the slanders.

On May 3, 1890, Sophronius relieved Metropolitan Nektarios of his duties; in July of the same year, he commanded Nektarios to leave Egypt.

Without seeking to avenge or even to defend himself, the innocent Metropolitan left for Athens, where he found that accusations of immorality had arrived before him. Because his good name had been soiled, he was unable to find a position worthy of a bishop, and in February of 1891 accepted the position of provincial preacher in Euboia; then, in 1894, he was appointed dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens. Through his eloquent sermons his unwearying labours to educate fitting men for the priesthood, his generous alms deeds despite his own poverty, and the holiness, meekness, and fatherly love that were manifest in him, he became a shining light and a spiritual guide to many. At the request of certain pious women, in 1904 he began the building of his convent of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina while yet dean of the Rizarios School; finding later that his presence there was needed, he took up his residence on Aegina in 1908, where he spent the last years of his life, devoting himself to the direction of his convent and to very intense prayer; he was sometimes seen lifted above the ground while rapt in prayer. He became the protector of all Aegina, through his prayers delivering the island from drought, healing the sick, and casting out demons. Here also he endured wicked slanders with singular patience, forgiving his false accusers and not seeking to avenge himself. Although he had already worked wonders in life, an innumerable multitude of miracles have been wrought after his repose in 1920 through his holy relics, which for many years remained incorrupt. There is hardly a malady that has not been cured through his prayers; but Saint Nektarios is especially renowned for his healings of cancer for sufferers in all parts of the world.

Apolytikion in the First Tone

O faithful, let us honor Nektarios, divine servant of Christ, offspring of Silivria and guardian of Aegina, who in these latter years was manifested as the true friend of virtue. All manner of healing wells forth for those who in piety cry out, "Glory to Christ who glorified you; glory to Him who, through you, wrought wonders; glory to Him who, through you, works healing for all."



November 13 - St. John Chrysostom

This greatest and most beloved of all Christian orators was born in Antioch the Great in the year 344 or 347; his pious parents were called Secundus and Anthusa. After his mother was widowed at the age of twenty, she devoted herself to bringing up John and his elder sister in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. John received his literary training under Anthragathius the philosopher, and Libanius the sophist, who was the greatest Greek scholar and rhetorician of his day. Libanius was a pagan, and when asked before his death whom he wished to have for his successor, he said, "John, had not the Christians stolen him from us." With such a training, and with such gifts as he had by nature, John had before him a brilliant career as a rhetorician. But through the good example of his godly mother Anthusa and of the holy Bishop Meletius of Antioch (see Feb. 12), by whom he was ordained reader about the year 370, he chose instead to dedicate himself to God. From the years 374 to 381 he lived the monastic life in the hermitages that were near Antioch. His extreme asceticism undermined his health, compelling him to return to Antioch, where Saint Meletius ordained him deacon about the year 381. Saint Meletius was called to Constantinople later that year to preside over the Second Ecumenical Council, during which he fell asleep in the Lord. In 386 Bishop Flavian ordained John presbyter of the Church of Antioch. Upon his elevation to the priesthood his career as a public preacher began, and his exceptional oratorical gifts were made manifest through his many sermons and commentaries. They are distinguished by their eloquence and the remarkable ease with which rich imagery and scriptural allusions are multiplied; by their depth of insight into the meaning of Scripture and the workings of God's providence; and, not least of all, by their earnestness and moral force, which issue from the heart of a blameless and guileless man who lived first what he preached to others. Because of his fame, he was chosen to succeed Saint Nektarios as Patriarch of Constantinople. He was taken away by stealth, to avoid the opposition of the people, and consecrated Patriarch of Constantinople on February 28, 398, by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who was to prove his mortal enemy.

At that time the Emperor of the East was Arcadius, who had had Saint Arsenius the Great as his tutor (see May 8); Arcadius was a man of weak character, and much under the influence of his wife Eudoxia. The zealous and upright Chrysostom's unsparing censures of the lax morals in the imperial city stung the vain Eudoxia; through Theophilus' plottings and her collaboration, Saint John was banished to Pontus in 403. The people were in an uproar, and the following night an earthquake shook the city; this so frightened the Empress Eudoxia that she begged Arcadius to call Chrysostom back. While his return was triumphant, his reconciliation with the Empress did not last long. When she had a silver statue of herself erected in the forum before the Church of the Holy Wisdom (Saint Sophia) in September of 403, and had it dedicated with much unseemly revelry, Saint John thundered against her, and she could not forgive him. In June of 404 he was exiled to Cucusus, on the borders of Cilicia and Armenia. From here he exchanged letters with Pope Innocent of Rome, who sent bishops and priests to Constantinople requesting that a council be held. Saint John's enemies, dreading his return, prevailed upon the Emperor to see an insult in this, and had John taken to a more remote place of banishment called Pityus near the Caucasus. The journey was filled with bitter sufferings for the aged bishop, both because of the harshness of the elements and the cruelty of one of his 310 guards. He did not reach Pityus, but gave up his soul to the Lord near Comana in Pontus, at the chapel of the Martyr Basiliscus (see May 22), who had appeared to him shortly before, foretelling the day of his death, which came to pass on September 14, 407. His last words were "Glory be to God for all things." His holy relics were brought from Comana to Constantinople thirty-one years later by the Emperor Theodosius the Younger and Saint Pulcheria his sister, the children of Arcadius and Eudoxia, with fervent supplications that the sin of their parents against him be forgiven; this return of his holy relics is celebrated on January 27.

Saint John was surnamed Chrysostom ("Golden-mouth") because of his eloquence. He made exhaustive commentaries on the divine Scriptures and was the author of more works than any other Church Father, leaving us complete commentaries on the Book of Genesis, the Gospels of Saints Matthew and John, the Acts, and all the Epistles of Saint Paul. His extant works are 1,447 sermons and 240 epistles. Twenty-two teachers of the Church have written homilies of praise in his honour. Besides his feasts today and on January 27, he is celebrated as one of the Three Hierarchs on January 30, together with Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory the Theologian.

It should be noted that, because September 14 is the Exaltation of the Cross, the Saint's memory has been transferred to this day.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

The grace of your words illuminated the universe like a shining beacon. It amassed treasures of munificence in the world. It demonstrated the greatness of humility, teaching us by your own words; therefore, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede to Christ the Logos for the salvation of our souls.



November 21—Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Today is the prelude of God's pleasure and the proclamation of man's salvation. The Virgin is clearly made manifest in the temple of God and foretells Christ to all. Let us also cry out to her with mighty voice, "Hail, fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."



November 25 - St. Catherine

Saint Catherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constas (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Catherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Catherine. According to the ancient usage, Saints Catherine and Mercurius were celebrated on the 24th of this month, whereas the holy Hieromartyrs Clement of Rome and Peter of Alexandria were celebrated on the 25th. The dates of the feasts of these Saints were interchanged at the request of the Church and Monastery of Mount Sinai, so that the festival of Saint Catherine, their patron, might be celebrated more festively together with the Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos. The Slavic Churches, however, commemorate these Saints on their original dates.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the First Tone

Let us praise the most auspicious bride of Christ, the divine Catherine, protectress of Sinai, our aid and our help. For, she brilliantly silenced the eloquence of the impious by the sword of the spirit, and now, crowned as a martyr, she asks great mercy for all.



November 30 - St. Andrew the First Called

This Saint was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

As first of the Apostles to be called, O Andrew, brother of him (Peter) who was foremost, beseech the Master of all to grant the world peace and our souls great mercy.

St. Basil — 2020 Stewards

<p>A Chris & Georgia Alems Robert & Emily Andreou William Angelos Anonymous John & Rebecca Antonoglu Stella Antonoglu +Dr. Christos & Tula Aravanis Konstantinos Arvanitis Marina Arvanitis & Ed Franklin Thomas & Lauren Arvanitis</p> <p>B Gregory & Maria Bairaktaris Theodora Bairaktaris Katy Balabanis Dr. Robert & Dr. Sophia Sarkos-Barnes Tom & Leslie Bezanis Dorothy Bezemes John & Patoula Billiris John & Dr. Christine Bishop Nick & Angie Brinias Cassy Brinkman</p> <p>C John & Rachel Calash John & Venus Campanelli John & Eleni Chioros Chris Christides Paraskevas Christodouloupoulos Dean Christy Ernie & Christine Cochans Maria Constantinides Constance Cosmas Pam Cosmos Stephan & Patricia Patsis-Cole</p> <p>D Tim & Jenel Damis Anesti & Emily Dhima Matt & Alexis Douglas Petro & Nichole Drimonas Gus Drugas</p> <p>E Sandra Efstathiou</p> <p>F Themis & Angeline Fabiatos Martin & Elaine Fosse Charles & Rosemary Fountas Ioannis Fountas Nicholas & Vicky Fountas Zaharias & Kalliopi Fountas Tony & Georgia Fragale John Frangias Nickoletta Frangias Themis Frangos Tony & Helene Frankos</p> <p>G Nicholas & Jennifer Georgopoulos George Goltos Daniel & Alexia Gould Christina Gountanis Melita Green Kevin & Kathryn Gulley</p> <p>H Sophia Haritos Arthur & Angie Harris Melanie Hillock William & Catherine Hostetler</p>	<p>K Alexis Kaiser Senya Kalpake Andrea Kamilaris Stella Kapetan Aris Kapsopoulos Demetra Karas George & Karen Karas Zarif & Constance Karwandyar Ralli Katsikas Evan & Eleni Katsoulis Jean Katsoulis Nick Katsoulis Peter Katsoulis Dr. Kenneth & Arlene Kehl Corey & Leia Kennelly Anthony & Christina Kidonakis Vana Kikos Harriet Kollias Eleni Kontalonis Ryan & Maria-Kanella Koper John & Joanne Koudounis Phyllis Koumantos Vivien Kouros John & Eugenia Kourvas Frank Kuchuris</p> <p>L John & Anna Lambros John & Patty Lemperis Elias Loumakis</p> <p>M Dina Manasses Eleni Manasses Spero Mandakes Chris & Zenaida Maniates Dean & Anastasia Maragos Carl & Natalie Michas Harry & Kathy Michas</p> <p>N Corey & Sophia Newman</p> <p>O Jeffrey & Kalliope Osborne</p> <p>P James & Bess Pabin Demitra Panagopoulos George Panagopoulos Dimos & Angela Panousakis Rhonda Panousakis Sophia Panousakis Emily Papachristou Marcie Papadakis Bette Pappas Lambros & Mary Peroulas Katina Phillips John & Loula Plesiotis Nondas & Angie Plesiotis +Eleni Pontikes John & Carol Pontikes Branislav & Sophia Popovic Dimitrios & Vasiliki Psihogios</p>	<p>R John Regas Suzanne Regas Anthony & Christina Rouches +Demetra Rouches Sam & Christine Rousakis Ken & Helene Paspalas-Rubenstein</p> <p>S Josh & Constance Sammartini Irene Santos Jayme Schenk Harold & Cindy Schroeder Emily Sedares Nicholas Senopoulos Panagiotia Sianis Paul & Pamela Sianis Tom & Eleni Sianis Grigorios & Debra Skourletos Joanna, Skourletos Sam Souleles Angela Sourounis Kenneth & Jennifer Sourounis Stavroula Spyropoulos George & Cynthia Stathopoulos John Stathopoulos George & Anastasia Stefanis Brian & Nicole Steinberg Kathy Stratton</p> <p>T Gerasim & Edith Tikoff Dr. Richard & Angela Tobias Fr. Dimitri & Presvytera Mary Tobias Athena Touloupoulos Nick & Kristen Triandafilou George Tsagaris Maria Tsagaris Anthony Tsenes Sophia Tsilimigras George & Julianna Tziahanas</p> <p>V Catherine Valsamoulis Dee Vergos</p> <p>W Kathy Walstrom Charles & Katherine Webster Francis & Kanella Willsey</p> <p>Z William & Dorothy Zimbrakos Perter Zervakis Thomas & Maria Zipp</p>
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St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church - November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time ends Divine Liturgy for SS. Kosmas and Damianos St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School	2	3 Election Day (General Elections) 10:00 am Bible Study	4 Paraklesis 6:00 pm	5	6 Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri	7 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
8 Stewardship Sun- day Orthros and Divine Liturgy St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School	9 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	10 Coffee Hour with Donations being given to Wounded Warriors (injured veterans)	11 Veterans Day Paraklesis 6:00 pm	12 7:00 pm Vespers for St. John Chrysostom (Kenosha)	13 8:30 am Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for St. John Chrysostom" at Monastery in Pleas- ant Prairie, WI	14 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
15 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy Fall General Assem- bly via ZOOM 1:00 pm St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School	16 6:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. Matthew the Evan- gelist 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Annunciation Ca- thedral)	17 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Annunciation Ca- thedral) 10:00 am Bible Study	18 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Annunciation Ca- thedral) 6:00 pm Paraklesis	19 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Annunciation Ca- thedral)	20 9:30 am Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Annunciation Ca- thedral)	21 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
22 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School	23 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Assumption)	24 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Assumption) 10:00 am Bible Study	25 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for St. Catherine the Great Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Assumption) 6:00 pm Paraklesis 7:00 pm Vespers of St. Catherine (Chicago)	26 9:30 am Thanksgiving Day Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Assumption)	27 9:30 am Pastoral Day for Fr. Dimitri Native American Heritage Day Divine Liturgy for the 40 Days of the Nativity Fast (Assumption)	28 8:30 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
29 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy St. Basil 5-7th Grade Sunday School 7:00 pm Great Vespers for St. Andrew (Chicago)	30 8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for St. An- drew the first called" (Chicago)					



SAVE THE DATE:

Angel Tree Gift Selection
Begins November 15



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
733 South Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60607